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Exploration and Discovery.

THE LONDON ORIENTAL CONGRESS.

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The Ninth International Congress of Orientalists, which met at London in September, proved to be a most profitable session. A large number of delegates were present from nearly every country in Europe and also from America, India, Persia and Egypt. The Duke of York acted as Honorary President and patron of the Congress, and Prof. Max Müller presided. For special work the Congress was divided into ten sections, each with an individual organization and meetings.

Among the many interesting papers, connected with the Biblical field, was one by Prof. Hommel of Munich on "The Babylonian Origin of Egyptian Culture." In the earliest Babylonian texts, he claims to find names identical and even represented by the same signs as in many of the Egyptian pyramid texts, which indicate a distinct connection between the two ancient civilizations. He maintains that the Babylonian is the older, and instead of accepting the theory that the Egyptian was originally a Semitic language, he considers the older texts sufficient proof that it has rather an affinity with the Sumerian dialect of Babylonia.

Mr. S. A. Strong called attention to the remarkable resemblance in many cases between the Assyrian religious texts and the Hebrew literature.

Mr. T. G. Pinches of the British Museum presented a valuable paper on "The New Version of the Creation Story," which differs from all that have thus far been discovered, and is evidently a very old document. The works of creation are arranged in an order, which does not correspond with that of Genesis, but has a curious resemblance to the eighth chapter of Proverbs.

No indications of the healing of the breach between the European Orientalists appear, but rather a confirmation of the former division. Geneva in 1894 is the place and date of the next Congress, after which it will be held only once in every three years.